

May 31, 2005

Ms. Nancy R. Malmgren
Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project
386 NW 112th
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Ms. Malmgren:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on December 17, 2004, regarding Washington State's Water Quality Assessment for 2002/2004. The department received over 45 comment letters during this last review process and is appreciative of the time you took to review and comment on this assessment. We realize that there is an extensive amount of information in the Water Quality Assessment. The scrutiny given by you and other public reviewers has resulted in many changes and corrections that improved the accurateness of the final submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Water Quality Assessment is being submitted to EPA as an "integrated report" to meet the Clean Water Act requirements of sections 305(b) and 303(d). EPA will only take approval action on Category 5 of the assessment, which represents the state's 303(d) list. The Water Quality Assessment can be viewed at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/index.html>.

You have requested assistance from Ecology in doing turbidity testing for Piper's Creek. While that request is out of the scope of this statewide listing process, I will forward your request to TMDL staff at our Northwest Regional Office to find out if there is any assistance that can be provided. While I cannot promise the level of monitoring assistance, regional Ecology staff may be able to assist you in ideas for meeting your goal to highlight and proactively work on improving the Carkeek watershed. It is through grassroots efforts such as yours that we see the most immediate benefits to improving water quality and salmon enhancement efforts, and we truly appreciate it.

Regarding your second request, we have corrected the spelling of Piper's Creek by adding back in the apostrophe. Thank you for noting that error.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide comments to Ecology. If you have questions regarding the above responses, or would like further clarification, please feel free to call me at 360-407-6414.

Sincerely,



Susan Braley
Unit Supervisor
Watershed Management Section

cc: Dave Garland, NWRO Water Program, Unit Supervisor